



# South Carolina's Read to Succeed Policy

Top 10 Things to Know

# READ TO SUCCEED TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW



**Read to Succeed supports every student in reading at grade level. Here's what you should know about the statewide initiative and how it supports students in reading on grade level by third grade.**

## **1 Reading is the key to a healthy and strong society.**

A student's ability to read is a critical predictor of educational and lifelong success. South Carolina wants to ensure all students are ready for success in school and beyond.

## **2 It is critical to address reading challenges and delays as early as possible.**

Strong reading programs, beginning in kindergarten, help students get on—and stay on—the path to reading on grade level. They are designed to give students every opportunity to be successful.

Read to Succeed identifies students who are struggling to read as early as kindergarten, with literacy screenings, parent and guardian notification, and updates on progress each school year.

## **3 The ability to read on grade level by third grade is imperative for a student's ability to succeed in school and graduate from high school.**

Beginning in fourth grade, students shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” When a student reads on grade level before fourth grade, they're better prepared for educational and lifelong success.

Reading to learn means comprehending facts in social studies and science, understanding word problems in math, and interpreting complex materials in language arts.

Students who enter fourth grade reading on grade level are better positioned for success in the classroom, high school graduation, and readiness for college or a good job.



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## **Through Read to Succeed, South Carolina provides comprehensive reading support and interventions from early childhood onward.**

Educators, schools, and school districts are dedicated to providing students with resources, interventions, and other supports to ensure they're reading on grade level by the end of third grade.

Read to Succeed programs help teachers identify students who may have reading difficulties early so they can provide them with targeted supports, including one-on-one instruction and small group time.

Students are provided individual reading plans, home reading strategies, and reading interventions before, during, and after school, and progress is monitored and shared with parents and guardians frequently.

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## **There are multiple ways to support your child's reading outside of the classroom.**

Supporting a student's reading success should happen beyond the classroom. Parents and guardians play an important role in helping their child develop reading skills at home and outside of school.

Ways to support your child's reading at home or over the summer include reading for 20 minutes every day, talking about letters and sounds with fun games, and speaking with your child's teacher or a local librarian to find books that match your child's reading level and interests.

Third grade students who are reading significantly below grade level also have the opportunity to attend a summer reading camp at no cost to parents and families. Led by teachers with special training in literacy, these camps are designed to provide students with high-quality and intensive instruction and support in a fun, engaging environment.

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## **Teachers and schools work in partnership with parents and guardians every step of the way.**

Throughout a child's progress from kindergarten through fourth grade, parents and guardians are regularly updated on their child's reading progress and are given home reading strategies and other resources to support learning and reading skills. As part of these conversation, schools will communicate if there is a need for retention at the end of third grade.

To support a student's reading success, parents and guardians also must help by implementing a read-at-home plan and/or attend parent workshops to learn how to help their child learn to read. Parents and guardians also provide input for their child's individual reading plans.

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## **Retention is one part of Read to Succeed's set of comprehensive reading supports.**

Read to Succeed provides comprehensive supports for students in schools and districts across South Carolina – beginning in kindergarten through the third grade – to support them in becoming proficient readers and prepare them for success in school and beyond.

It may be determined that a student will benefit from retention to receive additional support and time to gain grade-level reading skills before moving on to the fourth grade.

Schools work in partnership with parents and caregivers to support the needs of students. As part of these ongoing conversations, schools will communicate if there is a need for retention at the end of third grade.

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## **Retention is not a simple repetition of the third grade.**

Students who are retained are supported with a comprehensive program of intensive intervention. They receive personalized learning plans and intensive reading supports such as summer reading camps, tutoring, and a home reading plan so they can successfully enter fourth grade reading to learn.

The additional year provides struggling readers with the extra time and intensive interventions and support they need to meet their individual reading needs and catch up with their peers.



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Visit [SCReads.org](https://screads.org) to learn more about Read to Succeed and ways you can support your child in reading.



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## Promotion decisions are based on a student's mastery of third grade reading skills.

The decision to promote a student to the fourth grade is not based on one test score. Students have three different opportunities to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade:

- **Pass, at a minimum level, the state test.**
- **Pass an alternative assessment.**
- **Demonstrate sufficient reading skills in a portfolio of independently produced student work.**

Students will be provided all of these options, giving them multiple opportunities to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion. Teachers and schools will work with parents and guardians to determine whether a student demonstrates that they are reading on grade level with one of these options and ready to enter the fourth grade.

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## South Carolina's Read to Succeed initiative is designed to support the specific needs and circumstances of students.

Some students are exempted from retention. They include students with disabilities who have previously been retained, students with disabilities who do not take the same assessment, and students with less than two years of English instruction. However, all of these students continue to receive reading intervention services until they are reading on grade level.

Parents and guardians can contact their child's school or district office for the full list of retention exemptions.